

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN SPINE SURGERY

In partnership with key leaders and industry professionals, SRC developed the Center of Excellence in Spine Surgery (COESS) program. The COESS program identifies surgeons and facilities that provide excellent spine treatment and are dedicated to continuously improving healthcare quality and patient safety.



PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1. INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

The applicant facility is committed to excellence in spine surgery and has credentialing and privileging guidelines in spine surgery separate from general surgery.

2. SURGICAL EXPERIENCE

The applicant facility performs at least 125 spine surgeries annually. Each applicant surgeon performs at least 100 qualifying spine surgeries annually and has served as the primary surgeon for at least 200 qualifying surgeries in their lifetime.

3. PHYSICIAN PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The applicant facility must appoint a Physician Program Director (or Co-Directors) for the COESS program who is accredited or in the process of becoming accredited.

4. CONSULTATIVE SERVICES

The applicant facility must have a full complement of consultative services required for the routine and intensive care of spine surgery patients and their potential complications including: Anesthesiologist or CRNA, ACLS-certified physician or team, general surgeon, vascular surgeon, critical care physician, hospitalist, cardiologist, pulmonologist, physical therapist/occupational therapist, rehabilitation physician, infectious disease specialist

5. EQUIPMENT AND INSTRUMENTS

The applicant facility must maintain a full line of equipment and surgical instruments to provide perioperative care for spine surgery patients and have documented training for appropriate staff in the safe operation of this equipment.

6. SURGEON DEDICATION AND QUALIFIED CALL COVERAGE

Each applicant surgeon has privileges in general and spine surgery at the applicant facility, is board-certified or an active candidate for board certification and has qualified call coverage. Each applicant completes at least 12 hours of CME focused on spine surgery every three years.

7. CLINICAL PATHWAYS AND STANDARDIZED OPERATING PROCEDURES

Applicants formally develop and implement all required clinical pathways that facilitate the standardization of perioperative care for spine surgery procedures. Applicants perform each surgical procedure in a standardized manner and uses a template for operative note dictation that ensures proper collection of data for surgical procedures.

8. SURGICAL TEAM AND SUPPORT STAFF

The applicant facility employs a program coordinator, nurses and/or physician extenders and an operative team trained to care for spine surgery patients and provides ongoing, regularly scheduled staff education in-services.

9. PATIENT EDUCATION

The facility and each applicant surgeon provide all spine surgery patients with preoperative patient education, have a process for obtaining informed surgical consent and selecting procedures that are most appropriate for each patient's condition.

10. CONTINUOUS QUALITY ASSESSMENT

All applicants must collect outcomes data on all patients who undergo spine surgery procedures in SRC's Outcomes Database (or a similar qualifying database).

This is a summarized list of program requirements which is subject to change. For additional information, please contact SRC by emailing businessdevelopment@surgicalreview.org or calling 919.614.2623.